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# Food and Nutrition NEWSLETTER

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT...

### School Lunch Regulations

REGULATIONS ON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM. Final revisions and amendments to Federal regulations governing the operation of the National School Lunch Program were announced September 2 by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng. These regulations implement Public Law 91-248, which broadened and improved the National School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts.

For the first time in the history of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, regulations were issued in proposed form on July 15, with an invitation to any interested party to submit comments, suggestions, or objections by August 6. "We were pleased with the response," Assistant Secretary Lyng said. Over 100 individuals and organizations submitted communications. "We believe the final regulations represent a substantial improvement over the proposed regulations because of the suggestions and comments received," Mr. Lyng added.

Under the new regulations, local school authorities continue to have their previous obligation to serve free and reduced-price lunches to children they determine to be unable to pay the full price of the lunch. Such officials now will have to include the criteria they will use in making such determinations in standards of eligibility which must be approved by the State educational agency and be publicly announced in the community.

These standards of eligibility must take into account 3 mandatory criteria -- family income, family size, and the number of children in the family attending school or pre-school day-care centers. Additionally, on and after January 1, 1971, any school children from a family whose annual income is at or less than the "income poverty guidelines" prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture must be served a free or reduced price lunch.

The income poverty guidelines for the 1970-71 school year were announced by USDA on August 4.

Local school officials must publicly announce their standards of eligibility for a free or for a reduced price lunch. Information must be sent to parents, by letter or notice, as the school year begins and the same information must be made available to informational media in the community. The letter or notice to parents must be accompanied by a form which families can use to make application for free or reduced price lunches for their children.

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# PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT...

## REGULATIONS ON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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The final regulations provide that a school must offer free or reduced price lunches to children from families whose application indicates that the family meet the announced standards of eligibility. When school officials wish to challenge the continued eligibility of a child they must do so under a hearing procedure which gives a family advance notice of the information that indicates its children may no longer meet the school's eligibility standards. However, the child will continue to get free lunches while the challenge is under consideration.

For the first time, as required by P. L. 91-248, the regulations establish certain performance standards for schools which receive only federally donated commodities for their nonprofit lunch programs. Called "commodity only schools" in the regulations, these schools must accept the same obligations with respect to the service of free or reduced price lunches to needy children as schools that receive Federal cash assistance for their lunch programs.

However, P. L. 91-248 provides certain exemptions for private nonprofit schools in the National School Lunch Program if these schools are directly administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Among other major changes spelled out in the final regulations are the revised rules for the expenditure of special cash assistance funds -- those authorized by Section 11 of the National School Lunch Act. Prior to the passage of P. L. 91-248 these funds could only be used to assist schools that met certain standards of need. Now these Section 11 funds can be used to assist in the service of free and reduced price lunches to needy children in any participating school, based upon the school's need for such special assistance.

The new regulations were published in the September 4 issue of the Federal Register.

## EXTENSION OF SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

Continuation of the Special Milk Program for the 1970-71 school year was announced on September 8 by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin. Schools and child-care institutions are authorized to operate the program at year-ago levels through October 15, 1970, the expiration date of the Congressional "continuing resolution" under which all USDA programs are operating pending passage of the appropriation bill. Both the Senate and the House have approved \$104 million for the Special Milk Program for the year ending June 30, 1971. The USDA appropriations bill is now awaiting action by the Senate-House Conference.

ENGINEERED FOODS. In a talk to State Lunch Directors, FNS Administrator Edward J. Hekman said recently that USDA will use the following criteria in considering approval of new or modified foods for use toward meeting USDA meal requirements for child nutrition or food donation programs: (1) The food product must be on the market or be intended for the commercial market in a form similar to traditional foods: (2) There must be adequate evidence that the new or modified foods contribute to improved nutrition. (3) The new or modified foods must be as acceptable and cost the same or less than traditional alternatives. These criteria are based on these general policies: (1) USDA believes that a properly balanced diet of conventional foods can provide adequate nutrition. (2) Engineering of foods for nutritional improvement must be aimed at acceptance by the general public through the commercial market, and not solely for Government purchase. (3) To improve general nutrition, USDA advocates that these new foods be labelled to show essential nutrients, and that government and industry continue educational programs to increase public awareness of the need for essential nutrients.



## THE SCORECARD...

USDA HAS ALLOCATED \$18.4 MILLION to States this fiscal year (July 1, 1970-June 30, 1971) to help them improve Commodity Distribution programs for low-income families. These funds will be made available to 36 States, which requested them, to Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, and the American Trust Territories. The funds will be used to: (1) Improve and expand CD Program to better serve participating families by additional distribution points close to recipients, more frequent monthly distribution, and better warehouse facilities; (2) assist in the operation of food distribution programs in areas which do not now have a family food assistance program or in areas in which programs started last year with the use of USDA's grant; (3) encourage low-income families, including special groups such as the aged, Indians, and migrants, to participate in Program; and, (4) coordinate nutritional efforts to benefit participating families.

LEONARD B. POULIOT has been appointed Deputy Administrator for Management, Food and Nutrition Service. A Federal executive with broad experience in administration, management, organizational and program development, Mr. Pouliot was nominated this year for the Rockefeller Award in Administration and the Stockberger Award for outstanding public service.

MARTIN D. GARBER has been named Southwest Regional Director for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. He succeeds John J. Slaughter, who retired from that post. Mr. Garber was in charge, from 1955 to 1961, of the Department's food assistance programs. As Director of the Food Distribution Division (predecessor to the Food and Nutrition Service), he was in charge of the Department's school lunch and commodity distribution activities, and directed that Division during the period of introduction of the pilot food stamp program.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE getting family food help reached an estimated 10.7 million in July, with 6.9 million taking part in the Food Stamp Program and 3.8 million in the Commodity Distribution Program. Payments of "bonus coupons" to participating families reached a record high of \$98.5 million. In July 1969, \$22.4 million worth of bonus stamps were issued to 3.3 million people.

FOODS DONATED to the States by USDA to improve diets of needy families, needy persons in charitable institutions, and school children totaled 1.6 billion pounds in the first nine months of fiscal 1970 (July 1969-March 1970) against 1.5 billion pounds for the same period in fiscal 1969. USDA food donations for needy families during July 1969-March 1970 climbed to 861 million pounds, an increase of 11 percent over July 1968-March 1969. The foods donated cost \$203 million, 29 percent more than in the nine-month period in fiscal 1969.

ALL 869 COUNTIES and independent cities in the Southeast Region (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia) are now or soon will be operating USDA food-assistance programs for low-income families. In the U.S., as of September 1, there were 10 counties without plans for a USDA family food program: Jackson and Pitkin counties, Colorado; Harvey, Rice, Scott, and Seward, Kansas; Sioux, Nebr.; Beaver and Harmon, Okla.; and Adams, Pa. 3,005 counties and independent cities were operating a family food program; 114 areas were planning to, as soon as local arrangements are completed.

MORE THAN 600,000 YOUNGSTERS received nutritious meals this summer at summer recreation programs and day-care centers through the assistance of FNS's Special Food Service Program for Children.



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## AROUND THE NATION...

KENOSHA COUNTY, WISC., now has a self-service donated-food distribution center. The county used FNS Operating Expense Funds to rent new distribution and storage facilities and to buy new equipment for faster handling of commodities. Operating in the same manner as a grocery store, the recipient will "shop" for her food with a grocery cart. The old center in Kenosha had been in operation for 15 years. THE U.S. TERRITORY OF GUAM recently witnessed a "food first" when Governor Carlos G. Camacho opened a new supermarket-style distribution center. All low-income families will participate in the food-donation program. The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services expects 800 needy families (2,400 persons) will be getting food from well-stocked shelves at the center in Barrigada.

THE TRIBAL COUNCIL of the Lac Du Flambeau Indian Reservation, Wisc., has expanded its food distribution program to include not only the welfare of Indians on the Reservation but all needy citizens in Vilas County regardless of race. Full county-wide distribution will begin in September. This results from an agreement between the Council and the County. A portion of USDA's grant to the State will be used to pay for the cost of expanding and improving the program.

FOOD STAMPS IN NEW YORK CITY. The Food Stamp Program was inaugurated in New York City August 31. About 3,400 retail grocery stores, including 818 supermarkets, have been authorized to accept food coupons. New York's needy families will be able to buy their food stamps at about 900 selling sites -- 5 large banks, and their branches. USDA-publications, in Spanish and in English, are being distributed to potential recipients to provide them with more information on nutrition and how they can benefit from the Food Stamp Program.

FIFTEEN SCHOOLS IN ROANOKE, VA., will join the school breakfast program this fall, serving free breakfasts each day to 1,200 of their 8,300 students. At least 27 other Virginia schools will join the program, bringing the State's total to 131 participating schools. Last year, 89 schools in Virginia served an average of 9,200 breakfasts daily, with 53 percent free or at a reduced price.

PROJECT 93 will combat hunger in Nebraska, with help from an OEO grant. A citizens' organization which emerged after the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health, Project 93 will inform Nebraskans about existing and new food programs and increased emergency food and medical services. Representatives from low-income families make up a third of the 34-member governing board; other members come from State agencies and civic organizations.